

DNA - Sand Cholla Language

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Cadigan, Kathleen

Jun 13



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To me: Mark, Kathleen, Amanda, Gerald, Gerald

Here is the Sand Cholla mitigation I drafted.

In order to avoid potential impacts to sand cholla, a survey shall be conducted by a qualified botanist prior to any surface disturbance for the reconfiguration of the South Heap Leach Facility (SHLF). Surveys must be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. Surveys must follow established BLM standards and protocols, and should be approved by the BLM biologist prior to being implemented. If sand cholla are located, the sand cholla will be transplanted and stored within a plant nursery until it can be transplanted into the ground within the existing PoO boundary or within the Well Field area, to be analyzed in the Railspur EA. The BLM biologist must be notified if sand cholla are located and are transplanted.

Let me know if you need more information,

Kathy

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Hycroft Minor Mod DNA

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Cadigan, Kathleen

Jun 13



to me, Mark, Gerald, Amanda

Hi Jim,

Once the language for the sand cholla mitigation is approved, I would apply it to the DNA. In addition to the Sand Cholla mitigation, the following mitigation is being recommended:

During burrowing owl nesting season (March 1st - August 31st), a burrowing owl inventory survey following the Winnemucca BLM's survey protocol shall be conducted prior to surface disturbance in the areas identified as potential burrowing owl habitat within the Project Area. If active burrows are located, the BLM biologist must be notified and appropriate protection measures, including avoidance and restriction of activities will be established.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the destruction of nests (nests with eggs or young) of migratory birds. In order to avoid potential impacts to breeding migratory birds, a nest survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within potential breeding habitat prior to any surface disturbance proposed during the avian breeding season (March 1st through August 31st). If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (i.e., mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nest material, transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer area (the size depending on the habitat requirements of the species) shall be delineated and the buffer area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active. The site characteristics used to determine the size of the buffer are: a) topographic screening; b) distance from disturbance to nest; c) the size and quality of foraging habitat surrounding the nest; d) sensitivity of the species to nest disturbances; and e) the protection status of the species. Surveys must be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. Surveys must follow established BLM standards and protocols, and should be approved by the BLM biologist prior to being implemented. If active nests are located, the BLM biologist must be notified immediately and appropriate protection measures which may include avoidance or restriction of activities will be established.

Land clearing and surface disturbance would be timed to prevent destruction of active bird nests or young of birds during the avian breeding season and in accordance with the Winnemucca District policies to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA). If surface disturbing activities were unavoidable during the breeding season, HRDI would have a qualified biologist survey areas proposed for disturbance for the presence of active nests immediately prior to the disturbance.

Please be sure to use the above language as there have been revisions from the ROD.

Let me know if you require more information,

Kathy



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